

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5351

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10695

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, VE, CS, PN, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MEXICAN CUBAN VICE PREMIER CARLOS RAFAEL
RODRIQUEZ

1. IN REPLY TO MY QUERY FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA TOLD ME
TODAY THAT VISIT TO MEXICO OF CUBAN VICE PREMIER CARLOS
RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ WAS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO PLANNING
FOR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CUBA OF WIFE OF PRESIDENT
ECHEVERRIA. CUBAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO INSURE THAT NO
DETAILS WERE OVERLOOKED IN ORDER TO MAKE VISIT A SUCCESS.

2. RABASA CONFIRMED THAT MRS. ECHEVERRIA AND PARTY OF
350 (TRIP TO BEGIN FIRST PART OF JANUARY) WOULD TRAVEL
ON TWO REPEAT TWO MEXICAN SEAGOING FERRY BOATS WHICH
WOULD VISIT CUBA, JAMAICA, VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA.
BOATS WOULD TRANSIT THE PANAMA CANAL AND RETURN TO MEXICO
VIA PACIFIC COAST. MRS. ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP BEING PRESENTED
AS CULTURAL/TRADE PROMOTION MISSION AND HER PARTY WOULD
INCLUDE NOT ONLY GOM OFFICIALS BUT ALSO TRADE SPECIALISTS,
MUSICIANS, MOUNTED TROUP OF CHARROS AND OTHER FOLKLORE
SPECIALISTS. EXHIBITS WOULD INCLUDE HANDICRAFTS, ART BY
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LEADING MEXICAN PAINTERS AND MODERN MANUFACTURED

PRODUCTS.

3. RABASA SAID THAT MRS. ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP ("CARRIED OUT AT CONSIDERABLE HARDSHIP AND INCONVENIENCE TO HERSELF") WAS CAREFULLY CRAFTED IN ORDER TO RAISE DISCRETELY THE INTENSITY OF MEXICAN/CUBAN RELATIONSHIPS WITHOUT AT SAME TIME ANTAGONIZING OTHER SECTORS, AS CUBA WOULD ONLY BE ONE OF VARIOUS STOPS IN OTHER COUNTRIES ALL OF WHICH IMPORTANT TO MEXICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS.

4. ON BEING FURTHER PRESSED, RABASA SAID THAT SR. RODRIGUEZ ALSO DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING MFM IN BUENOS AIRES WHICH RODRIGUEZ HAD SAID CUBA WOULD ATTEND IF INVITED. RABASA SAID THAT HE HAD AGAIN CAUTIONED RODRIGUEZ THAT IF CUBA IS TO PLAY A USEFUL AND NORMAL ROLE IN HEMISPHERE RELATIONS IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ITS PARTICIPATION AT BUENOS AIRES OR ELSEWHERE BE MARKED BY GENTLEMANLY CONCILIATORY TONE. RODRIGUEZ SEEMED IN ACCORD.
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